

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 STR-08 CEA-02 CIEP-02 XMB-07 FRB-02 SCA-01

DRC-01 SCI-06 /178 W

----- 125873

R 311448Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8424

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15733

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, UR

SUBJECT: FRG FONMIN COMMENTS ON UPCOMING VISIT TO
MOSCOW

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY
STOESSEL AND AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND OCTOBER 30, FRG
FONMIN SCHEEL DISCUSSED HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW
(OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 4). SCHEEL THOUGHT THERE MIGHT
BE SOME SOLUTIONS TO A FEW BERLIN PROBLEMS, BUT DID NOT
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APPEAR OPTIMISTIC THAT SOME OF THE LARGER ISSUES WOULD

BE RESOLVED. HE ALSO DESCRIBED IN GENERAL TERMS HIS RECENT VISIT TO WARSAW. END SUMMARY.

2. SCHEEL SAID THAT HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW WAS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REGULAR POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG AND USSR.

HE SAID THERE WERE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS ON THE AGENDA APART FROM SEVERAL BERLIN ISSUES. (FYI: THESE ISSUES ARE OUTLINED IN BONN 14521. END FYI.) SCHEEL SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT SOME SORT OF SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND TO SOME OF THESE ISSUES IN A PRAGMATIC MANNER THAT WOULD NOT AFFECT EITHER SIDE'S LEGAL POSITION. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND BROUGHT THE RECENT SOVIET DEMARCHE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE TO SCHEEL'S ATTENTION (MOSCOW * 13523). SCHEEL WAS SURPRISED BY THE NEWS OF THIS DEMARCHE, AND NOTED THAT IT WAS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO PRECEDE HIS ARRIVAL IN THE SOVIET CAPITAL. ON THE THORNY ISSUE OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE, SCHEEL SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT SOME PRACTICAL RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM COULD BE FOUND.

3. SCHEEL SAID THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SOVIETS REVOLVED AROUND THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THE SOVIETS HAD THE STRANGE IDEA THAT BECAUSE THERE WAS AGREEMENT WITH THE FRG TO INTENSIFY COOPERATION IN THIS AREA, THIS MEANT THAT GERMAN COMPANIES SHOULD ARRIVE THE NEXT DAY TO SET UP BUSINESS. THE SOVIETS SEEMED TO FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS UP TO THE COMPANIES THEMSELVES TO GO INTO THE USSR AND LOOK FOR CONCRETE PROJECTS. HE THOUGHT THAT BY NOW THE SOVIETS UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE NO POSSIBILITY FOR THE FRG TO PROVIDE LOW INTEREST CREDITS; NORMAL FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH THE PRIVATE CAPITAL MARKET WERE THE ONLY SOLUTION. SCHEEL SAID THIS SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY DISTURB THE SOVIETS FOR GERMAN PRICES TENDED TO BE LOWER THAN THOSE OF OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH THE CREDIT TERMS MIGHT BE HIGHER. HE SAID THE SOVIETS UNDOUBTEDLY KNEW THAT THE RECENT GERMAN OFFER TO POLAND WAS A SPECIAL AND ONE-CONFIDENTIAL

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TIME OPERATION, AND THAT THE GERMANS HAD MADE CLEAR TO THE POLES THAT THE CREDIT OFFERED COULD NOT BE USED FOR ANY PURCHASES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. HE SAID THAT EVEN THE OFFER TO POLAND WAS NOT OF SUCH A NATURE THAT IT COULD BE OFFERED SIMILARLY TO THE USSR.

4. SCHEEL SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ISSUE WITH THE POLES DURING HIS OCTOBER

VISIT. HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD EXPECTED THE POLES TO KEEP SOME PRESSURE ON FOR ADDITIONAL LOW INTEREST CREDITS, HE THOUGHT THAT GIEREK NOW UNDERSTOOD HOW SLIM THE PROSPECTS WERE FOR THE GERMANS TO OFFER ANY MORE THAN THEY HAD DONE. HE HAD POINTED OUT TO THE POLES THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO DIRECT LINKAGE TO THE GERMAN OFFER OF THE CREDIT AND THE MATTER OF EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS, HE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THE EMIGRATION ISSUE WAS AN IMPORTANT ONE FOR GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION.

5. SCHEEL SAID PREPARATIONS WERE NOW UNDERWAY FOR THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT BONN IN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO IN ORDER TO PAVE THE WAY FOR GIEREK'S VISIT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15733

DURING THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR. SCHEEL SAID THAT GIEREK EXPECTED MOST OF THE SERIOUS ISSUES BETWEEN POLAND AND THE FRG TO BE CLEARED UP PRIOR TO HIS VISIT. GIEREK'S INTENTION WOULD THEN BE TO PUT THE EMPHASIS, DURING HIS VISIT, ON GIVING A NEW IMPULSE TO THE GERMAN/POLISH RELATIONSHIP. GIEREK WOULD WANT TO AVOID ANY CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, HE WOULD WANT TO DEAL WITH THE CHANCELLOR ON A HIGH PLANE, AND HE WOULD ENDEAVOR TO
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MAKE POSITIVE STATEMENTS ABOUT FUTURE RELATIONS, THEREBY AVOIDING ANY DWELLING ON THE PAST.

6. COMMENT: THE GERMANS APPEAR TO BE TAKING A MORE BEARISH VIEW OF THE SCHEEL VISIT TO MOSCOW THAN WAS THE CASE SOME WEEKS AGO. THE SOVIET ARTICLE IN "NOVOYE VREMYA" (MOSCOW 13503), THE SOVIET DEMARCHE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE, AND THE REPORTED HARD SOVIET POSITION AGAINST INCLUSION OF WEST BERLIN IN THE SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL AGREEMENT (LATTER POINT COMMUNICATED TO US BY POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL OCTOBER 30) HAVE LED THE GERMANS TO EXPECT A FAIRLY DIFFICULT SET OF TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS
LATER THIS WEEK.

7. OUR OWN EVALUATION IS THAT THE GERMANS ARE VERY PROBABLY RIGHT IN THEIR ASSESSMENT. APART FROM THE GENERAL SOVIET SUSPICIONS ABOUT GERMAN INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS WEST BERLIN, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THE SOVIETS BEING WILLING TO GRANT ANY CONCESSIONS ON BERLIN ISSUES DURING THE PRESENT TENSE PERIOD OF EAST/WEST RELATIONS.
HILLENBRAND

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